

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 ICA-20 /084 W
-----039337 242036Z /45-61

R 241809Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8468
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11721

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES - JULY 1978

SUMMARY: AN ADDITIONAL 98,000 SCHOOL LEAVERS REGISTERED
AS UNEMPLOYED DURING JULY PUSHED THE TOTAL OF UK
UNEMPLOYED UP TO 1,585,811. THIS TOTAL, REPRESENTING
6.6 PERCENT OF ALL EMPLOYEES, IS 139,750 MORE THAN THE
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PREVIOUS MONTH. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT UNEMPLOY-
MENT HAS RISEN ABOVE 1.5 MILLION SINCE FEBRUARY OF THIS
YEAR AND FOLLOWS FIVE MONTHS OF SUCCESSIVE REDUCTIONS.
OFFICIAL REACTION FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT
MR. ALBERT BOOTH WAS THAT THE INCREASE REPRESENTED
MERELY A TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION TO THE "GENERAL PICTURE
OF GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT". THE FULL DATA FOR BRITAIN AND

THE UK IS CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED TABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOVERNMENT'S OPTIMISM CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT WAS DENTED WITH THE RELEASE (JULY 18) OF THE DATA RELATING TO JULY. THE FIGURES REVEAL AN INCREASE OF 139,869 IN TOTAL REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK, TO A NEW LEVEL OF 1,585,811 (6.6 PERCENT OF ALL EMPLOYEES). THE INCREASE IS COMPRISED OF 96,869 ADDITIONAL SCHOOL LEAVERS AND A MORE WORRYING INCREASE OF 41,881 ADULTS. AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS THERE ARE NOW 1,371,300 UNEMPLOYED (5.7 PERCENT).

2. JOB VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT ALSO FELL OVER THE MONTH. AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT, VACANCIES IN THE UK WERE DOWN BY 6,400 TO 211,000.

3. THE FIGURES ADDED A NEW EDGE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE TRADE UNION LEADERS TO GAIN SOME KIND OF COMMITMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON THE REDUCED WORK WEEK. THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING CAMPAIGN AMONG TRADE UNION LEADERS TO PROPOSE NEGOTIATED REDUCTIONS IN THE WORK WEEK AS A METHOD OF REDUCING THE NUMBERS WITHOUT WORK. THE CAMPAIGN HAS FOUND LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND HAS BEEN DISMISSED BY INDUSTRIALISTS AS IMPRACTICAL IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE IS ALSO LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT EMPLOYED TRADE UNIONISTS ARE PARTICULARLY KEEN ON

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REDUCED HOURS (AND POSSIBLY REDUCED OVERTIME EARNINGS).

4. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REACTION CAME FROM EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY ALBERT BOOTH, WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE FIGURES DID POSE A "PROBLEM". HOWEVER, MR. BOOTH WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE JULY DATA WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A TEMPORARY

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-----039333 242037Z /45

R 241809Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUING TREND OF IMPROVEMENT.

HE LAID STRESS ON THE LARGE INFLUX OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCES

SUGGESTED THAT THE JULY SETBACK IS PARTLY DUE TO THE

TRANSITION FROM EXPIRING GOVERNMENT MANPOWER MEASURES

TO NEWER SCHEMES THAT ARE NOT YET FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

THIS HIATUS RESULTED IN A FALL OF 5,000 PEOPLE (TO

305,000) BEING HELPED BY GOVERNMENT SCHEMES.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES - JULY 1978

GREAT BRITAIN UNITED KINGDOM

NUMBER CHANGE/JUNE NUMBER CHANGE/JUNE

UNEMPLOYED EX-

CLUDING SCHOOL

LEAVERS 1,280,681 38,459 1,342,389 41,881

UNEMPLOYED

SCHOOL LEAVERS 231,806 92,625 243,422 97,869

TOTAL UNEM-

PLOYED 1,512,487 131,084 1,585,811 139,750

RATE 6.5 0.6 6.6 0.6

ADULT UNEM-

PLOYED (SEASON-
ALLY ADJUSTED) 1,309,900 5,200 1,371,300 6,600
RATE 5.6 -- 5.7 --
VACANCIES 244,665 -11,841 246,685 -12,100
VACANCIES (SEA-
SONALLY ADJUS-
TED) 209,200 - 6,300 211,000 - 6,400

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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